



FUND NEWS

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For Immediate Release
Monday, November 29, 2004

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\$2 MILLION AVAILABLE IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO CDFIs

FY 2005 Round of the CDFI Fund's Technical Assistance Component Opens

Washington, DC - The Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund officially opened the fiscal year 2005 funding round of the Technical Assistance (TA) Component of its CDFI Program today with the posting of a copy of the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on its website (www.cdfifund.gov). The NOFA will be published in the Federal Register as well, in the near future. Subject to final appropriations, the CDFI Fund anticipates awarding approximately \$2 million in TA grants this round. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. eastern time on Tuesday, January 25, 2005.

Through its CDFI Program, the CDFI Fund invests in and supports community-based organizations, known as community development financial institutions - or CDFIs, that provide financing and related services to communities and populations that lack access to credit and financial services. Specifically, the TA Component of the CDFI Program provides TA grants to CDFIs, and organizations proposing to become CDFIs, in order to build their capacity to better address the community development and capital access needs of the communities they serve. Currently, the CDFI Fund has certified over 730 CDFIs that operate in all of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I am delighted that we are announcing the opening of another round of our TA program," said CDFI Fund Director Arthur A. Garcia. "Since 1998 we have provided these grants to help build the capacity of financial institutions serving low-income communities. Applicants can request funds for technical assistance needs such as consulting services, technology purchases, and staff or board training. In the past awardees have used the grants to develop or update internal policies, send staff to training for underwriting and financial management, and to purchase efficiency enhancing technology such as computers and loan management software. The Fund encourages applications for these and other capacity building activities including requests that will enhance the applicant's ability to collect, electronically track, and report data demonstrating their community development impact," said Garcia.

To learn more about the TA program, the CDFI Fund encourages potential applicants to review the NOFA which is available through its website (www.cdfifund.gov). The TA Component application will be made available through the Fund's website on Monday, December 13, 2004.

In addition, the CDFI Fund will be conducting five (5) one-hour conference calls to provide guidance to potential applicants and a forum for questions. The calls will be targeted to particular

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application audiences: one for credit unions; one for microenterprise organizations; and two calls for all other types of organizations. A separate call will provide guidance for organizations specifically interested in applying for TA grants to enhance their data collection capabilities. Registration is not required but capacity is limited to 50 participants per call so interested parties are encouraged to call in shortly before each call begins. The schedule and call-in instructions are as follows:

<p><u>Specific to: Credit Unions</u> Thursday, December 16, 2004 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Eastern Time Phone Number: (202) 927-2255 Access Code: 410530</p>	<p><u>Specific to: Microenterprise Organizations</u> Friday, December 17, 2004 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time Phone Number: (202) 927-2255 Access Code: 166166</p>
<p><u>Any Potential Applicants</u> Thursday, December 16, 2004 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time Phone Number: (202) 927-2255 Access Code: 335518</p>	<p><u>Any Potential Applicants</u> Friday, December 17, 2004 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time Phone Number: (202) 927-2255 Access Code: 336398</p>
<p><u>Specific to: Data Collection Needs</u> Thursday, December 16, 2004 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time Phone Number: (202) 927-2255 Access Code: 726544</p>	

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